

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director for Operations

FROM : Deputy Chief, Foreign Documents Branch

SUBJECT: FDB Monthly Progress Report - August 1948

DATE: 3 September 1948

Forwarded herewith progress report of FDB for month ending 31 August 1948.

## I. Implementation of Recently Proposed Plans

### Eucom Document Project

25X1A A branch teleconference with the FDB screening team on 27 August indicated an estimated two hundred (200) tons of material of interest to Washington agencies of which over twenty (20) tons would be of interest to this activity. [redacted] itinerary calls for return to Washington on 15 September.

25X1A [redacted] Project"

25X1A Necessary administrative action has been taken to close the project as of 30 September 1948. In the remaining weeks, [redacted] will conduct an overall survey of all available foreign language material of intelligence interest. It is expected that the Deputy Chief will leave for the West Coast about 20 September.

### Library of Congress Arrearage

An FDB screening team has been in operation nearly a month. To date, over five hundred (500) items have been selected as being of interest to the intelligence agencies. Arrangements have been made to procure these items on special loan as provided for in LC/FDB conference of 14 July 1948.

25X1C [redacted]

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## II. Accomplishments

In further coordinating translation activities a listing of completed translations and translations in progress as of 25 August 1948 was received by the branch from the Army Signal Intelligence Unit, Belmar, N. J.

A survey to ascertain the utilization of IC cards was concluded this month. Results will soon be available.

Arrangements were made with OCD to periodically forward to FDB preliminary catalogue cards of all foreign language books received by the Library of Congress. To date, over 1,500 titles have been received covering 17 languages.

At the request of the Department of Army, a survey was conducted listing by title and location all Russian publications available in the Washington area dealing with the Soviet Army.

Pursuant to a State Department request, preliminary surveys were conducted ascertaining the location and type of captured German and Japanese documents available in the US. Results are available in branch files.

25X1C With the acquisition by the State Department of one additional set of current USSR newspapers from an alternative source [ ] arrangements were made with State for FDB retention of one set on a subscription basis.

Following the approval by the Executive for A&M of the new branch T/O on 29 July, two (2) new area divisions and a Document Screening and Reference Division were created. During the month the following were activated and personnel allocated:

- a. Near East Africa Division
- b. Eastern European Division
- c. Document Screening and Reference Division

With the Deputy Chief representing the branch, discussions were held with members of ICAPS regarding the feasibility of a central translation and exploitation agency for foreign language documents. As a result of the discussions, the various members of ICAPS are going to approach their respective organizations to determine what further action can be taken.

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On 4 August, State Department officials including Mr. Allen Evans, OIR, [redacted], OCD, [redacted] and [redacted] of ICAPS and others were briefed by Mr. Bagnall on branch operations.

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25X1A [redacted] As a result of an informal agreement concluded with [redacted] and representatives of Graphics Register, OCD, it is expected that FDB will soon receive a collection directive authorizing it to forward to or inform Graphics Register of the source of graphic material of intelligence value processed by the branch.

[redacted]

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J. J. BAGNALL